

In the Specification

Please substitute the following paragraph [0089], beginning on page 28:

[0089] In other embodiments, the linker element (L) can be one or more amino acid sequences. In other embodiments, the peptide linker has one or more of the following characteristics: a) it allows for the free rotation of the polypeptides that it links (relative to each other); b) it is resistant or susceptible to digestion (cleavage) by proteases; and c) it does not interact with the polypeptides it joins together. In various embodiments, a multimeric construct according to the subject invention includes a peptide linker and the peptide linker is 5 to 60 amino acids in length. More preferably, the peptide linker is 10 to 30, amino acids in length; the peptide linker is 10 to 20 amino acids in length. In some embodiments, the peptide linker is 17 amino acids in length. Peptide linkers suitable for use in the subject invention are made up of amino acids selected from the group consisting of Gly, Ser, Asn, Thr and Ala. Preferably, the peptide linker includes a Gly-Ser element. In a preferred embodiment, the peptide linker comprises (Ser-Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly)_y (SEQ ID NO:5) wherein y is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8. Other embodiments provide for a peptide linker comprising ((Ser-Gly-Gly-Gly-Gly)_y-Ser-Pro) (SEQ ID NO:6). In certain preferred embodiments, y is a value of 3, 4, or 5. In other preferred embodiment, the peptide linker comprises (Ser-Ser-Ser-Ser-Gly)_y (SEQ ID NO:7) or ((Ser-Ser-Ser-Ser-Gly)_y-Ser-Pro) (SEQ ID NO:8), wherein y is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, or 8. In certain preferred embodiments, y is a value of 3, 4, or 5. Where cleavable linker elements are desired, one or more cleavable linker sequences such as Factor Xa or enterokinase (Invitrogen, San Diego Calif.) can be used alone or in combination with the aforementioned linkers.

Please substitute pages 1-3 (Sequence Listing) with the accompanying Sequence Listing (pages 1-4).